



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY! Did you know experiential gifts are on the rise? In 2017, 40 percent of consumers said they wanted an "experience" gift — tickets to a concert, event or an outdoor activity. This is particularly popular with millennials, many of whom plan to give experiences for Valentine's Day.

GAZEBOEXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • FEBRUARY 2018

OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND FOR DOWNTOWN

Highland's historic mid-century modern buildings are a beacon for new businesses and entrepreneurs

At the same time some downtown business owners are retiring, Redevelopment Director Kathy DeGuilio-Fox said interest in Highway and Kennedy avenues is on the rise.

"We are hearing from developers, start-ups and existing business owners who are looking at the opportunities in downtown Highland," she said.

"They know Highland is a solid community and are eager to see what we have to offer. Business owners and developers, we are talking with are doing their due diligence."

Demolition of three properties, including the Town Theatre, is just one of the factors that has renewed focus on redevelopment of the downtown.

"We have a unique opportunity to engage in site development and create a vibrant, revitalized city center," DeGuilio-Fox said.

Another factor is the launch of catalyst strategies designed to build on what's already in town. DeGuilio-Fox and Redevelopment Commission Assistant Lance Ryskamp are modifying Indiana Main Street strategies to fit existing strengths, such as apparel, the arts, food and restaurants.

"We are working to recruit and establish businesses that will be a good fit and build on these sectors," the redevelopment director said. "We can then market this and use some of our events to promote these strengths."

An example, DeGuilio-Fox pointed to The Annex, which will be moving to a new location at 4th Street and Highway, adjacent to YaYa Sisters Resale Boutique.

Highland Main Street will highlight the move and promote both businesses at a Cash Mob March 24.

There are plans underway to develop an electronic newsletter to commercial realtors and downtown property owners to get information on available properties and give feedback as to what businesses the town is looking for.

"The more information we can get from realtors and owners to place on the town website, the more we can help direct prospective businesses to available space," DeGuilio-Fox said.

INFO: Learn more about Highland's commercial property purchase and lease opportunities at highland.in.gov/propertylistings.



New kid on the block ...

Experience the unique fusion of Italian and Peruvian cuisine at **JOSE'S FAMILY RESTAURANT**, 2934 Highway Ave. Local patrons are raving about the food — Iroquois chicken, plantains, vodka penne pasta and chicken parmesan — and the service. Chef/Owner Jose Salinas brings the exquisite flavors of Peru to Highland using his unique blend of Andean spices. He has incorporated Peruvian cuisine with his extensive Italian experience in the restaurant world.

"The staff cares about their patrons," Kathy DeGuilio-Fox said of the family-owned and operated restaurant. "They remember your name, your favorite dish and how you like it prepared. Everyone cares about your experience at their restaurant, and it shows."

HOURS: Jose's is open daily from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday.

INFO: Learn more about Jose's on Facebook @josesfamilyrestaurant or call (219) 838-4700.





NEW BIKE PATH SIGNAL

Hawk Enterprises has completed work on the town's newest safety feature — a responsive signal where the bike path crosses 45th Street.

Public Works Director John Bach said the signal will be dark most of the time. When activated, the signal will alert motorists through a light that turns, yellow, red and then flashing red while pedestrians are crossing before turning dark again. will turn yellow, then red.



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NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

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OFFICERS RAISE \$2,106 FOR CANCER RESEARCH



More than a dozen Highland officers turned their five o'clock shadows into assistance for local cancer patients during the department's first-ever No Shave November. It was such a popular effort, the Metropolitan Board of Police Commissioners extended it through December. In all, 14 officers grew a beard and another eight officers donated and helped raise \$2,106 for the Cancer Resource Centre in Munster. Officers who either raised or donated at least \$50 were allowed to grow a neatly trimmed beard for the month. Officers who did not wish to grow a beard but wanted to participate were given a wristband to wear instead. Thanks to Sip Coffee House, Krooswyk Trucking and Mahoney's Auto Repair and Towing for their monetary donations to the cause. [photo provided]

POLICE ASSISTED ADDICTION, RECOVERY INITIATIVE TAKES LOCAL DRUG-INTERDICTION EFFORT FURTHER

Highland Police are working to make a dent in local opioid deaths — which nearly doubled in 2017 — by urgent intervention and making it easier for those addicted to get treatment.

Public Information Officer John Banasiak said Highland, the fifth police agency in Indiana to partner with Gloucester-based Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative, recognizes there is no way police can arrest their way out of this epidemic. As a member of PAARI, police act as intermediaries referring addicted individuals for treatment and recovery options in lieu of arrest and prosecution.

Det. Brian Stanley said Highland has already helped several individuals since launching the program in December.

"We invite anyone with drug problems to come to the police department any time," he said. "We've built relationships with local treatment centers to provide immediate intervention." 🐶

DID YOU KNOW?

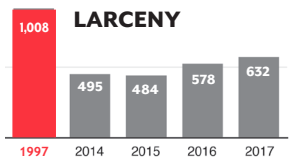
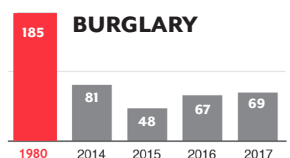
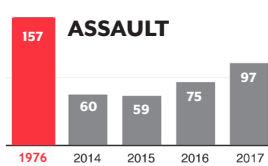
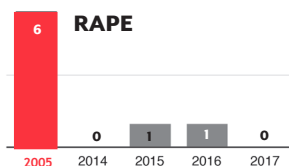
The overuse and abuse of opioids have long been a problem but it wasn't until a particularly lethal synthetic form of the drug burst onto the scene in 2015 that it became classified as a national epidemic. Because Fentanyl kills so quickly, police departments, such as Highland, carry nalcen with them at all times and have been trained to administer the only known antidote to the drug at the scene.

In 2017, Highland Police responded to 36 drug overdoses, administering nalcen 13 times. For three individuals, no amount of nalcen was able to reverse the deadly effects of the drug.

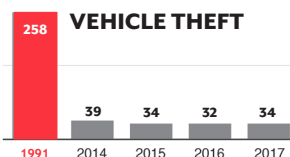
INFO: If you have any questions about the PAARI program or our partnerships in fighting the opioid epidemic, please contact Highland Police Det. Brian Stanley at (219) 838-3184.

2017 CRIME STATISTICS

Police utilized every tool in their crime-fighting arsenal to keep Highland and its residents safe in 2017. Violent crime remains down while robbery and larceny saw an uptick. Here's a look at criminal activity over the last four years and how it compares to the highest recorded statistics over the last 50 years.



<< Notable larceny (theft) increases resulted from "car hopping" – theft from vehicles done mostly at night by juveniles. Of the 173 cases, 151 vehicles (85 percent) were unlocked with valuables left in plain sight. Nearly a dozen arrests were made.



<< Robberies, including purse snatchings, were on the rise primarily because a pair of suspects went on a countywide binge. The scofflaws were arrested and charged for eight robberies, locally, and nearly two dozen countywide.

KEEPING CRIMINAL ACTIVITY IN CHECK

Police Chief Pete Hojnicky is happy to report low crime again in 2017 and credits his officers for keeping Highland safe.

"Our sworn, civilian and volunteer personnel make our department shine above the rest," he said. "They are heroes, who work every day to make Highland even better."

Hojnicky and his team are already dissecting the statistics to see where year-over-year crime rates have increased and how the department can drive already good numbers even lower.

"Instant access to information can make it seem like more crime is occurring when, in reality, it is simply more information that is being made available" he said. "We will always need the cooperation of our citizens to work with us: Report suspicious activity when you notice it, lock your homes and vehicles to make entry more difficult for criminals, attend crime watch meetings and get to know our officers. We are always here to help."

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2017, nearly 50 percent of all burglary suspects gained access through an unlocked door or window and nearly 25 percent were committed by a friend, family member, ex or employee.

A closer look at the 63 burglaries reported in Highland last year show the crimes where committed at:

- 37 residential properties
- 7 apartments
- 10 businesses
- 9 garages/sheds



HOW TO AVOID BEING A VICTIM

Help us reduce crime in our community by following just a few of these helpful hints:

LOCK vehicles and keep valuables out of sight, even when refueling or running an errand.

LOCK doors and windows on homes, garages and sheds. Keep garage doors closed. Never leave mowers, blowers, or bicycles unattended.

KNOW individuals you allow into your home. Remember: nearly 25 percent of suspects are known to the victim.

KEEP a list of valuables.

CALL 911 to report suspicious activity.

ARRANGE for family or a trusted neighbor to handle the arrival of packages.

INSTALL motion detectors and/or security systems.

REPLACE old locks and install dead bolts.

PARK locked vehicles in driveways when possible.

CONDUCT internet transactions at the police station.

BE AWARE of your surroundings at all times.

ATTEND a local crime watch meeting.

Old habits are hard to break, but if we all try a little harder in 2018 – by following some or all of the above listed suggestions -- we can have a significant impact. Help us reduce crime in our community and the likelihood of you becoming a victim.

BABE RUTH REGISTRATION

It's time to register for Highland Babe Ruth. Divisions are open to Lake County residents.

BABE RUTH: Ages 13 to 15

SENIOR BABE RUTH: Ages 16 to 19

WHEN: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. **FEB. 10 and 24.**

WHERE: Lincoln Center Room 109

FEE: \$200 per player

INFO: Contact President Dan Vassar at (219) 924-1945 or highlandbaberuth@yahoo.com.

HIGHLAND LITTLE LEAGUE

Boys and girls can sign up for Little League T-Ball, Rookie, Minor B, Minor A, Majors divisions.

LEAGUE AGES: 4 to 12

WHEN: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **FEB. 3, 17, MARCH 3**

WHERE: Lincoln Center

NOTE: Players MUST turn 4 by August 31, 2018 and reside or go to school in Highland. Birth certificate and proof of residency are required.

ONLINE REGISTRATION: www.highlandll.com.

INFO: Email Lisa Stacy at info@highlandll.com.

ADULT SLOW-PITCH SOFTBALL

Registration begins this month for men's and co-rec softball teams. League format will depend on number of teams in division. Top teams receive cash prizes. Rosters are limited to 20 players. Season begins April 16.

TEAM FEE: \$700 due by **MARCH 31**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114

CHORUS AUDITIONS

Northwest Indiana Youth Chorus invites singers aged 6-18 to audition for its spring season. NIYC rehearses Monday evenings for its annual concerts and also participates in local festivals, musical theatre and liturgical activities.

WHEN: 6:30 p.m. Mondays

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center, Room 108

INFO: Please contact Dr. Bonita Neff at (219) 629-5448 or email bdneff@iun.edu.

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

Do you have items you would like to resell, but don't want to invite people into your home? Rent a booth at our upcoming garage sale.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. **MARCH 10**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

VENDOR FEES: A 10' x 10' interior space is \$33.

A 23' x 6' wall space is \$54. Booth space is first come, first served. Tables/chairs not included.

INFO: Call (219) 838-0114.

CALLING ALL VENDORS!

Rent a booth at our Spring Craft Show and Vendor Fair on April 14. Register now if you're a returning vendor. New vendors can sign up beginning **FEBRUARY 12**.

VENDOR FEES: A 10' x 10' interior space is \$43.

A 23' x 6' wall space is \$70. Tables/chairs not included. Retail Merchant Certificate is required.

INFO: Call (219) 838-0114.



Snow Pitch Tournament

Bundle up for some cool action outdoors as Highland Parks and Recreation brings back its Snow Pitch Tournament. Co-rec and men's teams are guaranteed a minimum of two games in this double elimination tourney with random seeding. First-place winners receive sweatshirts and second-place receive long-sleeve T-shirts.

WHEN: Saturday, February 24 and Sunday, February 25

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: February 15

WHERE: Sharp Athletic Complex

FEE: \$175 per team

For more information

Call Highland Parks and Recreation at (219) 838-0114 or visit highlandparks.org.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Sixth, seventh, and eighth grade residents of Highland or students attending a Highland school are invited to participate in the Middle School Basketball League. League format will be determined by registration numbers. Everyone receives a team T-shirt. The first-place team receives champion T-shirts. Teams will be chosen through a player draft with the coaches.

WHEN: Wednesday nights, **APRIL 4 - JUNE 6**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$50 resident / \$55 nonresident

REGISTRATION: Deadline is **MARCH 6**

ONLINE ACTIVITY CODE: 133002

NOTE: There will be a Mandatory Skills Assessment from 6:45 to 8 p.m. **MARCH 7** in the Lincoln Community Center Fieldhouse.

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Highland students are invited to participate in the High School Basketball League. League format will be determined by registration numbers. Everyone receives a team T-shirt. The first place team will receive champion T-shirts. Please note: Participants will sign up as individuals and teams will be chosen through a player draft with the coaches.

WHEN: Wednesday nights, **APRIL 4 - JUNE 6**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$50 resident / \$55 nonresident

REGISTRATION: Deadline is **MARCH 13**

ONLINE ACTIVITY CODE: 133003

NOTE: There will be a Mandatory Skills Assessment from 6:45 to 8 p.m. **MARCH 14** in the Lincoln Community Center Fieldhouse.

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114